subordinate officials, and if so, whether those orders be placed on the table, and if no step has been taken in this direction, to state the reason for it ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar—The Government have already explained their attitude towards this question at the time.

The invitation of Council Members to Darbar functions.

155. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(a) after making enquiries, if necessary, that the Members of the Travancore Legislative Council are generally invited or not to Darbar meetings, and that in so inviting no distinction of caste or creed is observed;

(b) if our Government have now begun to follow any rule, principle, method or order of precedence in inviting non-official Members to Darbar meetings or in drawing up the list of the non-official Members to be invited, and if so, what is it;

(c) that the Government have any objection to follow what is being done in Travancore in this matter ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Government do not think it necessary to make an enquiry of the kind.

(b) Vide answer to question 2 (a) and (b) of the last budget session of the Council.

(c) The Government see no necessity to deviate from the practice already obtaining here.

156. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the Council Members the present list of non-official Members to whom invitations will be sent to Darbar meetings, and to state of these how many are Cochinites, and of the Cochinites, how many are (1) caste-Hindus, (2) non-caste Hindus, (3) Christians, (4) Muhammadans and (5) Jews, and whether the Government have any objection to increase the number of the so-called untouchables to be invited to Darbar meetings, and if there is any objection to do so, to state the reason ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government have nothing to add to what has been said with reference to question 327 of the legislative session of 1101.

The re-organisation of the Excise Department.

157. Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether a re-organisation of the Excise Department was proposed by the late Superintendent of Excise;

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